

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA; SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES PARTNERSHIP FOR WORKING TOWARD INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the Village of Key Biscayne is committed to inclusion of all residents regardless of race, ethnicity, gender or age, as a fundamental aspect of our community; and

WHEREAS, cities and towns are the best place to make inclusiveness an everyday priority; and

WHEREAS, local elected officials can and should lead the way forward in making inclusiveness a priority in America's cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, the National League of Cities has designed the Partnership for Working Toward Inclusive Communities to support cities and towns in their commitment to inclusion; and

WHEREAS, the National League of Cities and its members believe an inclusive community promotes equal opportunity and fairness; and

WHEREAS, the National League of Cities and its members believe an inclusive community promotes citizen participation and engagement; and

WHEREAS, National League of Cities President, James C. Hunt, Councilmember, Clarksburg, West Virginia, has invited local officials to join the Partnership for Working Toward Inclusive Communities and to make a commitment to building more inclusive communities in their own cities and towns.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That the Village of Key Biscayne hereby affirms our commitment to inclusion as a fundamental aspect of our community, pledges active efforts to seek to achieve that goal, and urges all citizens of Key Biscayne to join together to support this effort.

Section 2. That the Village of Key Biscayne joins the Partnership for Working Toward Inclusive Communities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this__ day of _____, 2007.

MAYOR ROBERT L. VERNON

ATTEST:

CONCHITA H. ALVAREZ, CMC, VILLAGE CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

VILLAGE ATTORNEY



V I L L A G E O F K E Y B I S C A Y N E

Village Council

Robert L. Vernon, *Mayor*
Jorge E. Mendia, *Vice Mayor*
Michael Davey
Enrique Garcia
Steve Liedman
Thomas Thornton
Patricia Weinman

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 7, 2007

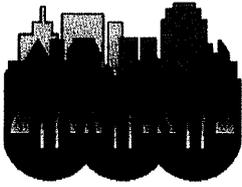
TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Village Council

FROM:  Councilmember Patricia Weinman 

RE: Resolution for Inclusiveness.... National League of Cities

I believe that our community has already taken many steps to being a more inclusive community. By making a specific commitment to inclusiveness we commit to pay attention to how our decisions may impact people differently, whether due to their ethnic background, age, gender or gender orientation in each decision we make. Let's join this network of over 200 Inclusive cities, nationwide.

Inclusive Communities



National League of Cities

1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20004

www.nlc.org

WHAT CAN YOUR CITY DO?

Create Connections

Install the Inclusive Community Sign to announce to all citizens that this community promotes equal opportunity and fairness and citizen participation and engagement.

Provide educational opportunities designed to welcome and familiarize new residents with their community. These programs give new residents the occasion to learn more about their local government, gain awareness about local issues, and learn about the many opportunities for citizen involvement in community activities.

Display a welcome sign that reflects all the major languages spoken in your community.

Start a "language bank" of volunteer interpreters for all languages, including sign language, used in the community.

Reach out to various community organizations (such as religious, cultural, civic, and youth and elder-oriented) about the value of equal citizen participation in local government and the opportunities for involvement.

Initiate leadership development programs that provide residents with the knowledge and tools to develop grassroots solutions to neighborhood problems and concerns.

Conduct a survey of residents measuring how their local government represents and responds to their needs and problems.

Remove physical barriers that prevent citizens living with disabilities from participating in community activities.

Encourage Dialogue

Create a widely available community newsletter or website that discusses local issues, explains upcoming events and meetings, encourages citizen involvement, and offers the opportunity for citizen feedback.

Establish "town hall" meetings in which all members of the community are welcome to express their views and concerns about various issues affecting the city or town.

Create Citizen Advisory Panels that represent the different neighborhoods of your community and that work closely with one another and with city officials to identify problems and apportionment of resources.

Involve citizens in designing and planning city land use, such as for a new playground, downtown area, or a library.

Start a monthly "inclusion roundtable" to discuss critical issues facing your community.

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Partnership

for

Working

Toward

Inclusive

Communities

WHAT CAN YOUR CITY DO?

Continued from previous page.

Celebrate

Hold a ceremony celebrating your community's installation of the Inclusive Community Sign.

Organize a series of city festivals that celebrate the multicultural nature of your community; invite all community organizations and groups of citizens to attend and participate.

Sponsor and endorse a community wide undoing racism day or week. Join with cities and towns across the country, September 25-29, 2006, and participate in NLC's "Race Equality Week." For more information on "Race Equality Week" please go to NLC's Equity and Opportunity Issue Page.

Hold a community-wide yard sale and use the proceeds to improve a park or community center in an underserved neighborhood.

Focus on City Employees and Policies

Pass a resolution (sample copy of resolution included in tool kit) reaffirming your city's commitment to building a more inclusive community.

Provide training for city employees focusing on dealing with diverse constituencies, recognizing cultural, religious, and other differences, and preventing discrimination.

Encourage people representing various ethnic populations to serve on city boards and commissions, and to run for elected office.

Value the input of every employee. Reward managers who do. Cast a wide net when recruiting new employees.

Review your city's charter to ensure that current government structures most efficiently and effectively handle the needs and concerns of the citizens.

Create a zero tolerance harassment policy for all government employees; define the policy in an employee handbook and on a poster displayed in a visible area of the office; and hold workshops and training sessions designed to educate employees about your city's policy, the different forms of harassment, and how to avoid such situations in the workplace.

Involve Youth

Conduct an essay contest to encourage children and youth to discuss the importance of equality for and participation by all citizens and to offer creative ways to accomplish this goal. Publish and publicize contest and winning essays with the local media.

Develop a curriculum designed to teach students about the importance of their local government. Focus on youth roles in the community and offer opportunities for hands-on experience in local governance.

Promote cultural understanding events at local schools where students are able to experience different cultures first-hand by exposure to food, music, art, and customs of various ethnic populations.

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WHAT CAN YOUR CITY DO?

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Sponsor youth “town hall” meetings where your city’s youth can have a chance to express their opinions directly to local elected officials.

Organize joint projects involving schools from different sections of the community — and involve the parents in carrying out the projects.

Involve the Media

Issue a press release or hold a press conference announcing your community’s commitment to building a more inclusive community. Invite the media to the installation of the new Inclusive Community Sign.

Promote positive stories of inclusion in the local media to enhance the understanding of different groups of citizens living in the community and to gain broader support for community inclusion initiatives.

Educate and inform reporters, editors, and commentators of the local press about the importance of working towards a more inclusive community — allowing positive actions to be the focus of stories instead of pessimistic editorials or commentaries.

Provide regular updates to the media about progress on action steps in your community and upcoming inclusion activities.

Be a Model

Be a visible supporter and champion for this effort.

Encourage others to join the effort — even though it can be difficult, challenging, and uncomfortable.

Pay attention to your own behavior.

Look for resources — books, articles, organizations, people — to broaden your awareness of issues related to inclusion. Use NLC’s Resource Guide to Inclusive Communities to find helpful NLC publications.

Stay focused on the goal of promoting an inclusive community.

Be patient — start small and build on success.

Practice what you preach — accept other’s ideas; reach out to others who are from different backgrounds; encourage the participation of all community members; and work to move beyond tolerance to true inclusion and equality.